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DATE April 26, 1954

COPY NO.

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

Washington, D.C.

FOA/USEP-USIA FIELD RELATIONSHIPS
WITH RESPECT TO THE ESCAPEE PROGRAM

REFERENCE: OCB Meeting, February 17, 1954

OCB FILE NO. 32

NSC review(s) completed.

State Department review completed

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WARNING

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States, within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, U.S.C., the transmission or revelations of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

May 19, 1954

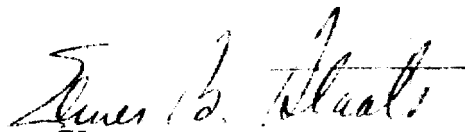
MEMORANDUM FOR THE OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

SUBJECT: FOA/USEP-USIA Field Relationships with Respect to
the Escapee Program.

The attached joint FOA-USIA report on the above subject, requested by the Board on February 17 (Minutes, Agenda Item 3), was noted by the Board Assistants on behalf of their principals on May 14, 1954.

In noting the report the Board Assistants affirmed the desirability of continuing existing efforts for improving the exploitation of the psychological values in the program, and that the results of these efforts should be included in the next six months progress report on the Escapee Program due in September. The Board Assistants requested the U. S. Information Agency and FOA to instruct the appropriate people of the Board's continuing interest in this matter.

The previous draft on this subject dated May 7, 1954 is obsolete and may be destroyed in accordance with the security regulations of your agency.



Elmer B. Staats
Executive Officer

Attachment:

Memo to Executive Officer, OCB,
from Gen. Porter, FOA, and Mr.
Bundy, USIA, subj. as above,
dated 4/27/54, with attachment
as listed.

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from attachment.

C O P Y

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April 27, 1954

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Elmer B. Staats, Executive Officer
Operations Coordinating Board

SUBJECT: FOA/USEP-USIA field relationships with respect
to the Escapee Program.

In accordance with the request of the OCB on February 17, 1954, we are transmitting a joint FOA-USIA report on the field coordination of the two agencies in the psychological exploitation of the Escapee Program.

/s/ R. W. Porter, Jr.
Foreign Operations Administration

/s/ F. O. Bundy
U. S. Information Agency

Attachment:

Report entitled: "FOA/USEP-USIA
Relationship in the Far East and
in Europe, dated April 26, 1954.

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April 26, 1954

FOA/USEP-USIA RELATIONSHIP IN THE FAR EAST
AND IN EUROPE

INTRODUCTION

On February 17, 1954, the OCB requested an FOA-USIA report on the field coordination of the two agencies in the psychological exploitation of the Escapee Program.

Two officials of FOA, Mr. Ugo Carusi of the Office for Refugees, Migration and Voluntary Assistance, and Mr. Laurence A. Dawson, Chief of the Escapee Program Division of that Office, have recently returned from abroad, and the FOA contribution to this report is based upon their first-hand observations. Mr. Dawson's survey of Escapee Program operations included Hong Kong, Taiwan, Iran, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Germany, and Austria. Mr. Carusi's visit covered only the last three.

General Conclusions

On the basis of their observation of the projects already in action and discussions with USIA officials both in the field and Washington, the following conclusions are reached:

FOA and USIA personnel concerned with the Escapee Program are uniformly convinced that the accomplishments of the Program, if well exploited, can prove to be a highly important asset to the United States in advancing national objectives. Without exception, the USIA officials with whom Mr. Carusi and Mr. Dawson spoke voiced enthusiasm concerning this aspect of the Program, and expressed their desire to achieve the most effective exploitation possible. The need for additional personnel in this effort was expressed in certain areas. The psychological values to the United States inherent in the Program merit a continuing priority exploitation effort.

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Except in the Far East as noted below, the period from November - December, 1953, has been marked by greatly increased joint efforts toward the above, with evidence of increased output to the Iron Curtain area and incipient awareness behind the Iron Curtain of the existence of the Program and the availability of asylum and assistance in the West. In the Far East, systematic exploitation efforts have not been undertaken, due in part to the fact that the development of a U.S. Escapee Program in Hong Kong and Taiwan has been relatively recent and in part to the fact that the policy guidance to USIA officers in the Far East on this matter directs that no publicity be given to the U. S. Government's financial interest in certain EP activities. However, considerable emphasis has been placed by USIA on the utilization of information obtained from Chinese Communist escapees. The degree of cooperation between officials in the two agencies appears excellent in all areas. The policy objectives to be served by exploitation of the accomplishments of the Escapee Program in the Far East, and the nature and extent of publicity without identifying the U. S. Government's participation in the program, are now under consideration.

FAR EAST

More than a year ago an information policy with respect to Escapees was issued to all appropriate field offices. At that time there were no USEP activities in the Far East (Hong Kong and Taiwan). However, the policy guidance indicated that no useful purpose would be served by publicizing the European program to audiences in the Far East and South Asia. In May 1953, the U.S. Escapee Program in Hong Kong and Taiwan was developed and initially carried out through the instrumentality of Aid to Refugee Chinese Intellectuals (ARCI), without overt identification with USEP. Instructions to the field directed that ARCI activities should not be identified with the U. S. Government nor identified with the Escapee Program. However, media were authorized to give moderate play to favorable press comment. Consistent with approved plans USEP officials have only recently been assigned to that area. A considerably expanded program adding other voluntary agencies is being established. Discussions with respect to the details of policy objectives are already under way. The reactions of USIA officials in Hong Kong and Taiwan with whom Mr. Dawson talked indicate that the accomplishments of the program in the Far East can be exploited with due regard for British sensitivity in Hong Kong. Liaison arrangements between USIA and USEP are now being developed in the field preliminary to the development of policy direction from Washington.

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2. Statements were received from Czechoslovakian, Hungarian and Albanian escapees in Germany, Austria and Greece that they and their colleagues behind the Iron Curtain regularly listened to Western broadcasts, and that their decision to escape was prompted or hastened by their awareness of asylum and assistance in the West as a result of such broadcasts.

3. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] notwithstanding the fact that Communist border controls along the Czechoslovakian and Hungarian frontiers of Austria have been tripled in severity in the last two years, and that this past winter has been unusually severe, the rate of influx from those countries during this winter has been higher than in several previous winters.

Escapee Program accomplishments and the effective exploitation of such accomplishments are among the factors which affect the rate of flow of individual defectors. (The primary factors, however, are the degree of oppression of the individual behind the Iron Curtain and the great and increasing severity of Communist border control and internal security measures). Thus, while mass defection under present conditions is nearly inconceivable, the flow of individual defectors may be somewhat increased through knowledge of asylum and assistance in the West, and a sustained flow of such individual defectors is strongly suggestive of effective psychological exploitation. It is pertinent to note here that the terms of the NSC policy on defection specifically prohibit encouragement of mass defection from the satellite states.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

On the basis of these recent surveys and discussions relating to the Escapee Program it is concluded:

1. That the developing exploitation of the accomplishments of the Escapee Program is already producing results highly beneficial to United States interests.
2. That the exploitation effort should be developed further with special emphasis on successful resettlement and integration.

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NEAR EAST (Iran)

The USEP Program in Iran, authorized relatively recently, has not yet been established but will be underway shortly, at which time joint consideration will be given to the exploitation aspects.

EUROPE

Mr. Dawson's one-day stop in Istanbul (necessarily limited) did not permit an opportunity for discussions with USIA. In Greece the USEP Program has been brought to a generally high degree of excellence, affording highly exploitable opportunities. However, the USIA Chief in Greece indicated to Mr. Dawson that in view of reductions in USIA personnel it would be increasingly difficult to assign the time of an officer to the USEP Program. He stated that he is enthusiastic concerning the exploitation potential in the Escapee Program. The USIA Area Assistant Director will pursue this problem further during his current trip to Greece.

In Italy, Austria and Germany there is decided evidence of a developing and closer liaison between USEP-USIA, marked by initiative and enthusiasm. Several USIA officials stated that more personnel is required if adequate and continuing program coverage is to be achieved. Nevertheless, personnel has already been assigned where considered most needed and most useful. In Germany USIA has assigned a full time officer to work with the Office for Field Coordination (USEP/OFC) and USIA, Paris, has employed a writer on a contractual basis, who was just completing a tour of Escapee Program installations. USIA, Italy has made arrangements with VOA/MRC for necessary assistance, either by sending someone from Munich to Rome on appropriate occasion, or by providing service at Munich on material forwarded from Rome.

EXAMPLES AND EFFECTS OF IMPROVED USEP-USIA RELATIONSHIPS

1. Careful and successful planning through which the recent "Freedom Flight" of 66 escapees to the United States received timely world-wide publicity and extensive VOA coverage. A similar successful effort was made concerning the recent flight of ten persons, under hardship conditions, from Hungary into Austria.

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Approved For Release 2006/01/12 : CIA-RDP80R01731R003000170003-2

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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FROM:

NO.

DATE

MAY 21 1954

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
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